

PRBA is credited with mentoring and helping generations of attorneys develop their careers while staying true to its core mission of empowering and giving back to the Puerto Rican and Latino communities.

Through the Puerto Rican Bar Association Scholarship Fund, the Association promotes opportunities for educational and professional advancement for underserved young professionals.

Throughout its rich 60-year history, PRBA has benefited from the leadership of some of the brightest and best Board members and Presidents. This year's PRBA President, Carmen Pacheco, is an inspiring example of what can be accomplished with support and vision. In 1992, Carmen and her business partner Betty Lugo, established Pacheco & Lugo, the first Hispanic women-owned law firm in New York.

PRBA's members have ascended to the highest levels of the legal community within private practice, non-profit and all levels of government including the U. S. Supreme Court by Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting this year's extraordinary individuals and institutions: Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte, Elisa D. Garcia, Chief Legal Officer, Macy's Inc., Robert L. Haig, Esq. Partner, Kelley, Drye & Warren LLP, the CUNY Board of Trustees and the New York State Court of Appeals. I also would like to recognize the Mistress of Ceremonies, Jeanine Ramirez, Brooklyn's own NY1 News outstanding reporter and journalist.

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH ANGUS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ruth Angus, of Mount Ayr, Iowa for being selected as Ringgold County's 2017 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Ruth served as a 4-H club leader for the Clover Belles from 1965–1983. During her time with 4-H, every meeting involved education and hands-on learning. Each member understood the importance of being part of 4-H and gained the necessary skills to move on and be integral parts of their communities. Her dedicated leadership to the club has continued to have a positive impact even years after her involvement.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Ruth embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ruth for receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2017 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2nd Annual Distinguished Service Awards. I applaud the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring these awards. Celebrating the achievements of our veterans is important because our veterans in Northern Virginia have sacrificed so much for our community and our nation. It is critical that we all take the steps to honor and uphold the sacred agreement between our society and our veterans. I am honored to recognize the following individuals for their service to our community:

Veteran Business Mentorship Award: Community Business Partnership: Community Business Partnership has been an incredible tool for veterans considering starting a small business and veteran business owners in Virginia. Their Veteran Business Outreach Centers demonstrate their dedication to our community by setting up veterans with training, counseling, and necessary resources for success. These centers also offer regular opportunities for veteran business owners to network and collaborate. The mentorship provided at these centers has been exceptional and critical to supporting those who have dedicated their lives to our country.

Meritorious Veteran Owned Business (Emerging): Semper K9: After six overseas deployments, founder Christopher Baity has sought to provide trained service dogs to physically and emotionally support veterans and their families. His nonprofit gives veterans with physical impairments or PTSD dogs who can assist them. This service is so important because our veterans deserve all the support they can get when dealing with physical and emotional hardship after service.

Meritorious Veteran Owned Business (Established): Strategy and Management Services, Inc. (SAMS): SAMS is an exceptionally charitable and active organization in our Northern Virginia community that produces sustainable careers and annual community service programs. SAMS promotes social awareness and volunteerism through a variety of volunteer programs, which raise money, collect donations, and provide food services for Virginians who need it most. This organization is so important to our community for its support and for providing the opportunity for Virginians to volunteer and give back to the greater community.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Mr. Jerry D. Norris, Battlespace, Inc.: As president of Battlespace, Inc., Mr. Norris is responsible for negotiating, overseeing, managing and directing all aspects of corporate business. Prior to his career in the private sector, Mr. Norris served in the United States Navy for 28 years, retiring in 1992 as a Captain. After his retirement from the Navy, he focused his energies on improving the business landscape in Northern Virginia, serving as Chairman of both the Arlington Economic Development Commission and the Crystal City Business Improvement District. Mr. Norris also served as a member

of the Arlington BRAC Transition Working Group, helping the community respond and reorient itself to the new realities of BRAC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these incredible individuals and in congratulating them on their awards. Civic engagement is the foundation of a healthy community, and Fairfax County residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

HONORING GEORGE GEVAS FOR 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor for me to recognize constituents who have given so selflessly to the communities I represent. When it comes to Hastings-On-Hudson, few individuals have been as selfless and dedicated to improving the public good as George Gevas, who this year will mark his 50th year of public service in the community.

George has certainly had a storied career in Hastings, first joining the Hastings Fire Department in June of 1967 and completing the Essentials of Firemanship within 2 years. After 20 years of service, he reached the rank of Captain in the department, and subsequent became both a Fire Inspector and Fire Police Officer.

Today, George serves as the Village Police Commissioner, solidifying his unparalleled legacy of public service to Hastings. Though that's not the only legacy he has left. Those in Hastings familiar with the annual Kid's Christmas Run hosted by the Uniontown Hose Company will know that George was in fact the very first man to ever portray Santa Claus at the event; just another example of his good-hearted nature and love for his friends and neighbors.

Few individuals have ever given as much to their community as George Gevas, and Hastings has been incredibly fortunate to have him. I want to congratulate George on a remarkable half-century of public service and thank him for all he has done to strengthen his neighborhood.

REMEMBERING CHARLES L. GRIBI

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Charles L. Gribi, who recently left this earth on September 15, 2017.

A Cincinnati native, Charles grew up in Riverside, and throughout his childhood held numerous jobs in an effort to support his family through the Great Depression.

His compassion for the safety and service of others does not stop there. After winning a scholarship to Xavier University in Cincinnati, Charles enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the start of World War II.